



GET FUNDING

MOSES ORGANIC FACT SHEET

Funds for Farmers

www.mosesorganic.org/fundsforfarmers.html

visit MOSES online for the most up-to-date funding information

Farming is a business, and like most businesses, it is rare to receive grant funds to support operations, purchase land or improve buildings. However, there are opportunities for farmers to receive grant support for on-farm research projects, business planning, conservation, and some kinds of marketing support. The following list outlines where to look for dollars to support these kinds of activities. For the most up-to-date funding announcements, and/or to find individual program websites and electronic applications, visit the MOSES Funds for Farmers page online at:

www.mosesorganic.org/fundsforfarmers.html.

If you don't have access to the internet, or if you have questions, please contact MOSES Outreach Coordinator, Jeff Gunderson at (715) 778-5775, or jeff@mosesorganic.org.

Research & Producer Grants:

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) North Central Region

SARE is a program providing grants to researchers, agricultural educators, farmers and ranchers, and students in the U.S. Farmer project grant requests are generally due in the late fall. For more information call (612) 626-3113 or go to <http://www.sare.org/ncrsare>

Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)

A non-profit foundation that sponsors research, including farmer directed research related to organic farming practices. Proposals are considered twice a year, May and November. For more information call (831) 426-6606, email jane@ofrf.org or go to <http://www.ofrf.org>

Value Added Producer Grants (VAPG)

Grants may be used for planning activities, for working capital to market value-added agricultural products, and for farm-based renewable energy. Eligible applicants are independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures. Although smaller projects may be funded, multi-year and larger projects can also fit this program, however a large match of funds is required. The application deadline is generally in mid-summer. For more information about the program, contact your State Rural Development Office via 1-800-670-6553 or go to the http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd_map.html

Beginning Farmer/Rancher Program (BFRDP)

The Farm Bill has made available in fiscal year (FY) 2009 \$17.2 million to fund a BFRDP. To support the nation's beginning farmers and ranchers, BFRDP will make competitive grants to new and established local and regional training, education, outreach and technical assistance initiatives that address the needs of beginning farmers

and ranchers. Project periods will be limited to 3 years. Proposed budget requests must not exceed \$300,000 per year. Priority will be given to projects that are partnerships and collaborations led by or including nongovernmental and community-based organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach. The application deadline is generally in mid-May. Contact Siva Sureshwaran at ssureshwaran@csrees.usda.gov, (202) 720-7536; or Janie Hipp at jhipp@csrees.usda.gov, (202) 720-3605 for more information or visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/beginningfarmerandrancher.cfm>

Small Biz Innovation Research Program (SBIR)

Offers grants to qualified small businesses (including small and medium-sized farms) in support of high quality, innovative research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture that could lead to significant public benefit if successfully commercialized. Application requests for FY 2010 funding were announced June 09. Deadlines for this program vary. For more info contact Siva Sureshwaran at ssureshwaran@csrees.usda.gov, (202) 720-7536, or go to <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/sbir/sbir.html>

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. Any farmer engaged in livestock or crop production on eligible land may apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland; rangeland; pasture; private non-industrial forestland; and other farm or ranch lands, as determined by the Secretary of Ag. Farmers who are currently organic and are adding land can receive \$1040 to pay for consultants to help them with the plan, new to organic farmers get \$1465. For more info go to http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/EQIP/EQIP_signup/2008_EQIP_Signup/index.html

Organic Valley's Farmers Advocating for Organics (FAFO)

A grant fund open to all applicants seeking funding for projects or programs oriented towards protecting, safeguarding, and advancing the organic marketplace through research, education and/or advocacy. FAFO is a voluntary fund contributed to only by Organic Valley and Organic Prairie farmer-members. Once gathered, FAFO funds are distributed by a nine-member farmer committee. The FAFO Committee is interested in hearing from individuals, universities, public/private schools, NGOs, farmers and consumers who are interested in securing funds for their organic specific projects. For more information on application criteria or contact information, go to www.organicvalley.coop/farmerfund or call 888-444-6455.

Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) | PO BOX 339, Spring Valley, WI
p. 715-778-5775 | info@mosesorganic.org | www.mosesorganic.org

Wisconsin Grants

WI Dept. of Ag, Trade & Consumer Protection Ag. Development and Diversification (ADD)

The ADD Grant Program invites proposals for projects that are likely to stimulate Wisconsin's agricultural economy through the development and exploration of new value-added products, new markets, or new technologies in agriculture. ADD grants are awarded competitively each year, with deadlines generally in mid-March. For more info, contact Mike Bandli, (608) 224-5136 or mike.bandli@datcp.state.wi.us or go to <http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/mktg/business/marketing/val-add/add/index.jsp>

The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Grant Program (GLCI)

The GLCI is a partnership between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and private sector agricultural and conservation groups, working together to promote best management practices on Wisconsin private grazing lands. There are three types of grants offered under this program. Grazing grants for education; Grazing grants for research; and Grazing grants for technical assistance. The deadlines for all three grants are generally mid-May. For more information, contact Laura Paine, Division of Agricultural Development, (608) 224-5120 or laura.paine@wi.gov or go to <http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/land-water/grazergrant/index.jsp>

Buy Local Buy Wisconsin (BWBL)

The BLBW grant program invites proposals for projects that are likely to stimulate Wisconsin's agricultural economy by increasing the purchasing of Wisconsin grown or produced food by local food buyers. Deadline is in mid-April. For more information email DatcpBLBW@wi.gov, call Amy Bruner Zimmerman, (608) 224-5017 or Lois Federman, (608) 224-5124 or go to <http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/mktg/business/marketing/val-add/directmktg/blbw.jsp>

Producers First Program

Producers First is a pilot program that is accepting applications from Wisconsin local food producers to work with expert consultants who will provide one-on-one technical assistance with the goal of increasing farm operation capacity, efficiency, sales, and profitability. Applicants to the program will need to identify both a technical assistance need within their farm operation and a qualified, committed consultant to address that need. Deadline for applications is generally in July. Questions about the program may be directed to Teresa Cuperus, (608) 224-5101, teresa.cuperus@wi.gov

Minnesota Grants

Ag. Utilization Research Institute (AURI)

AURI provides expertise and assistance to increase value, demand and market opportunities for agriculturally-based products. Applicants are required to match contributions and work with AURI personnel in developing the value added project. For more information call (800) 279-5010 or go to <http://www.auri.org/>

MN Dept of Ag Sustainable Ag. Demonstration Grant Program (MDA)

Competitive grants for up to \$25,000 are awarded to individuals or groups for on-farm sustainable agriculture research or demonstration projects in Minnesota. The

purpose of the grant program is to fund practices that promote environmental stewardship and conservation of resources as well as improve profitability and quality of life on farms and in rural areas. For more information contact Jean Ciborowski, jeanne.ciborowski@state.mn.us, (651) 201-6217 or go to <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/default.htm>

Iowa Grants

Leopold Center

The Leopold Center offers competitive and renewable grants for those in the state of Iowa. Grants are agriculture focused and cover a wide range of topics including: research, buy local, and policy. For more information, email leocenter@ia-state.edu, call (515) 294-3711 or go to <http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/index.htm>

Additional Resources

Grassroots Guide to the 2008 Farm Bill

This 128 page guide, written by the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (SAC), walks you through each of the thirty-four 2008 Farm Bill programs most important to sustainable agriculture. Call (202) 547-5754 to order a hardcopy of the guide for \$8 (includes shipping and handling) or find the guide online at <http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/>

Federal Resources for Sustainable Farming and Ranching

This 28 page ATTRA guide offers an overview of the major federal conservation programs that provide resources for farmers and ranchers to enhance and maintain sustainable farming and ranching practices. Call ATTRA for a hardcopy, 1-800-346-9140 or download a copy at http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/federal_resources.pdf

Beginning Farmer Tax Credit

Available in Iowa and Nebraska, this tax program provides an incentive to current and retired farmers who rent agricultural assets to a beginning farmer. The owner receives a tax credit for several years based on the value of the lease. To learn more about IA's program call (515) 281-6444. To learn more about NE's program call (800) 446-4071.

Farm Aid

Farm Aid is a non-profit organization working to keep family farmers on their land. Call 1-800-FARMAID (1-800-327-6243), email Farmhelp@farmaid.org or go to <http://www.farmaid.org>

MIDWEST ORGANIC
— Sustainable Education Service —
MOSES

Visit www.mosesorganic.org for more resources and tools, including our Organic Resource Directory and the Organic Broadcaster Newspaper. Plan to attend our annual Organic Farming Conference in February. To find upcoming events including MOSES trainings and field days visit our web calendar at: www.mosesorganic.org/events.html

-updated June 2009